

Matters of Conscience

June 2020 Q&A

What is the conscience?

(from 2Tim.1 teaching)

συνειδησις

(su-nei-dei-sis)

Definition: *Awareness within one's self*

A) Awareness of moral judgments relating to right and wrong.

Romans 2:14-15

For when Gentiles who do not have the Torah do instinctively the things of the Torah, these, not having the Torah, are a law to themselves, in that they show the work of the Torah written in their hearts, their **conscience** bearing witness and their thoughts alternately accusing or else defending them.

But, what about....

Acts 23:1

Paul, looking intently at the Council, said, “Brethren, I have lived my life with a perfectly good **conscience** before God up to this day.”

B) Awareness within one's self of God as sovereign Creator.

1 Peter 2:19

For this *finds* favor, if for the sake of **conscience** toward God a person bears up under sorrows when suffering unjustly.

Today's Questions:

#1 – *How do Numbers 25:1-3 and 1 Corinthians 10:25-31 stay consistent with one another? And could you explain this in the context of the conscience?*

Numbers 25:1-3

While Israel remained at Shittim, the people began to play the harlot with the daughters of Moab. For they invited the people to the sacrifices of their gods, and the people ate and bowed down to their gods. So, Israel joined themselves to Baal Peor, and **Adonai was angry against Israel.**

1 Corinthians 10:14

Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.

1 Corinthians 10:25-33

Eat anything that is sold in the meat market without asking questions for conscience' sake. FOR THE EARTH IS ADONAI'S, AND ALL IT CONTAINS [Psalm 24:1]. If one of the unbelievers invites you and you want to go, eat anything that is set before you without asking questions for conscience' sake. But if anyone says to you,

“This is meat sacrificed to idols,” do not eat it, for the sake of the one who informed you, and for conscience’ sake. I mean not your own conscience, but the other man’s. Why is my freedom decided by another’s conscience? If I partake with thankfulness, why am I slandered concerning that for which I give thanks? Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. Give no offense either to Jews or to Greeks or to the congregation of God just as I also please all men in all things, not seeking my own profit but the that of the many, so that they may be saved.

#2 – *How do I forgive someone? Is it truly forgiveness if I still remember that thing they said to me, or that thing they did to me? Why do I recall many times during prayer saying, “Lord, help me to forgive them”, yet my feelings toward that person never really changed?*

Genesis 50:17

‘Thus you shall say to Joseph, “Please **forgive** [סְפֹרָה], I beg you, the transgression of your brothers and their sin, for they did you wrong.” And now, please **forgive** [סְפֹרָה] the transgression of the servants of the God of your father. And Joseph wept when they spoke to him.

Genesis 7:17

Then the flood came upon the earth for forty days, and the water increased and lifted up the ark, so that it rose above the earth.

Genesis 13:6

And the land could not sustain them while dwelling together, for their possessions were so great that they were not able to remain together.

Genesis 37:25

Then they sat down to eat a meal. And as they raised their eyes and looked, behold, a caravan of Ishmaelites was coming from Gilead, with their camels bearing aromatic gum and balm and myrrh, on their way to bring *them* down to Egypt.

“Forgive” means to bear the hurt.

Exodus 2:24

So God heard their groaning; and God **remembered** His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

1 Samuel 1:19

... And Elkanah had relations with Hannah his wife, and Adonai **remembered** her.

**If “Remember” means to take action,
“Forget” means to refrain from action.**

Jeremiah 31:34

“They will not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, ‘Know Adonai,’ for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them,” declares Adonai, “for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.”

The Two Aspects of Forgiveness:

A – Bear the hurt. ← **Forgive**

B – Do not take action. ← **Forget**

#3 – *Someone recently said that before Pentecost, people did not have the holy spirit, except in limited and specific instances. Is that so? Hadn't it always been God's spirit that causes the desire and ability to walk in His ways?*

Genesis 1:2

The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters.

Genesis 7:22

...of all that was on the dry land, all in whose nostrils was the breath of the spirit of life, died.

Exodus 31:3

“I have filled [Bezalel] with the spirit of God in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all *kinds of* craftsmanship...”

Exodus 35:21

Everyone whose heart stirred him and everyone whose spirit moved him came *and* brought Adonai’s contribution for the work of the tent of meeting and for all its service and for the holy garments.

Proverbs 1:23

“Turn to my reproof. Behold, I will pour out my spirit on you. I will make my words known to you.”

Proverbs 14:29

He who is slow to anger [אָרְךָ אַפַּיִם] has great understanding, but he who is quick-tempered [וּקְצָר-רוּת] exalts folly.

Joel 2:28

“It will come about after this that I will pour out My spirit on all mankind, and your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions.”